The Logger's Bark
RADIO CLUB of TACOMA

SEPTEMBER 2008 Volume 4, Issue 9 Copyright RCT

From The Editor...

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Wow! Another month has come and gone… I've been pretty busy this month, as I suspect quite a few of you have also been. No time to play radio!

This month is momentous one for a certain RCT member. This fellow has been a mentor, an Elmer and a asset to the Radio Club of Tacoma for many years. He assists in the Museum, and in fact at one time had a column in The Loggers Bark. He also assists in the club library, and runs the infamous "Whiskey Group" on 75 meters every night.

By now, you must know that I'm talking about Worth W7WG. A fine gentleman and an asset to the club. Come join us the evening of Saturday September 20th 2008 as we celebrate Worth's birthday and his many years of service to the Radio Club of Tacoma!

This month on the radio we might expect to begin seeing signs of the much anticipated fall and winter propagation. Keep your fingers crossed, because August ended up with no, as in zero, sunspots! It's enough to give a ham radio hobbyist fits! This almost guarantees that the low bands, 30, 40, 80 and 160 meters will be the place to be this fall and winter.

September is the traditional start of contest season. The biggies this month are: Worked All EU (WAE DX) on September 13/14, Salmon Run (Washington State QSO Party) September 20/21… Don't you dare miss that one! And for the RTTY enthusiasts, there is the CQ WW (CQ World-Wide) RTTY on September 27/28.
By my count, there are 49 contests running at some time or another in September!

For full details on contests go to this URL: http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html

If contests are not your bag, there will no doubt be improving conditions for all as the year goes on. Don't forget the contest-free bands of 12, 17 and 30 meters. Lets have a great month, and sorry that the kiddies had to go back to school….. **NOT!**

73 Gary WG7X

Board Meeting Minutes
6 August, 2008

The RCT Board meeting was held at the Radio Club of Tacoma club house. Vice President Jill Palmer K7JIL called the meeting to order at. 7:30

Officers and board members present:
Vice President: Jill Palmer – K7JIL
Secretary: Larry Watson -- KD4VOM
Board Member: Al Burleson -- K7HW
Board Member: Alan Lentz – W7AML
Board Member: Bob Purdom – AD7LJ
Board Member: Frank Palmer – AC7JY
A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached. There were 11 names on the attendance roster.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

The minutes of the previous Board meeting were approved as coordinated/corrected by e-mail.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Larry Watson – KD4VOM – In addition to the normal utility bills and bank statements, we received a notice from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources requesting a certificate of liability insurance. I contacted the Marsh group and arranged to have the certificate sent to them.

Correspondence:

A copy of the correspondence log is attached to the original copy of the minutes.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Gary McFadden – K7UPG

In the Treasurer's absence Larry KD4VOM reported the current bank balance and recent income and expenses.

ILLNESS AND SILENT KEY:

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: Rick KE7EMW reports the membership count at 297

Library: Doug AD7AV reported on the Library Team's progress in acquiring new documents. The team has acquired eight new books, QST's from 1915 to 1929, 200 Meters and Down and Ternan, Radio Engineering. All within their approved budget for this year. Well Done! *A complete list is attached to the original copy of these minutes.*

The Library shelving project has been completed, a donated computer has been installed to assist in managing the library database. Rich KR7W and Al N7OMS have been making progress installing the upstairs network terminal outlets as well.

The issue of what to do with the large supply of QST's we have acquired. Following the general discussion, it was the decision of the Board to ask the Library Team for their recommendation. The front runner at this point is donating them to the Bellingham Antique Radio Museum since they have expressed some interest and the documents will be preserved.

Field Day 2008: Bob AD7LJ reported that Nick K7MO has completed and filed our Field Day report to the ARRL. We should have the results at the next regular meeting.

Bob also purchased the grill we used from the Hertz rental office which was closing in order to have it for Field Day. The discussion centered on how to handle the $300 expense. The Club has used the grill for Field Day this year and will use it again for the Hamfest food station, and probably for the annual picnic as well. The decision of the Board was to solicit extra donations at meetings when the Field Day collection is made.

Larry KD4VOM presented the final Field Day Kitchen operations and expense report. It was moved, seconded and approved to pay the Field Day Kitchen expenses as submitted.

Hamfest 2008: Bob AD7LJ reported that table reservations are coming in and there are still several important jobs unfilled. We have a rather large Consignment from the W7RLQ estate which Steve AD7VL will be managing.

Kirkreit Picnic 2008: Larry KD4VOM reported on the final Picnic accounting, which came in considerably less than last year in part due to the fine work of XYL Connie Clarke, whose active work resulted in considerable attendee donations.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

RCT Washington Mutual Safe Deposit Box: Larry KD4VOM reported on the need to provide current authority and authorized signatories for our WAMU Safe Deposit Box. WAMU requires a written copy of the minutes reflecting the Board's decision.

It was Moved, Seconded and Approved to authorize the following officers access to the Radio Club of Tacoma WAMU Safety Deposit Box R-

198;

Randy Thompson AD7FF, President

Gary McFadden K7UPG, Treasurer

Richard (Larry) Watson KD4VOM, Secretary

RCT Washington Mutual Hamfest (Flea Market) Account: Washington Mutual requires Board approval to correct an inadvertent error on the signatories for our Hamfest (Fleamarket) Account. The Treasurer, Gary McFadden K7UPG needs to be added to the list of authorized signatories/access to the "Flea Market" Account

It was Moved, Seconded and Approved to add Gary McFadden, K7UPG to the Radio Club of Tacoma "Flea Market" account.

Planning Team: Larry, KD4VOM reported on the history and status of the Online Internet Resource Team IRT) Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). There have been multiple versions developed over the several months since the Board approved the establishment of the Team. Larry submitted the proposed IRT SOP for Board review and consideration.

The Planning Team will ask for official approval by the Board at the September 3rd Board Meeting. *A copy of the IRT SOP submission is attached to the original copy of these minutes.*

Field Day/Hamfest Signs: Roger KE7EMV was not present – no report

NEW BUSINESS:

Salmon Run: Al Ferguson N7OMS reported on planned activity for this year's Salmon Run. We plan to use the mail for soliciting pledges this year and resorting to phone calls for those who have not responded by mail. An article has been submitted for this month's BARK, and Rick KE7EMW and Al N7OMS are working out the technical details of the mailings, one to notify members and solicit pledges and the final to advise them of the Salmon Run results and amounts due.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to fund, up to $ 100.00, the two Salmon Run bulk mailing operations.

Donation and Consignment: Larry KD4VOM reported on the recent accession of donations from the W7RQU estate and substantial consignment items.

The Election Process: There was a discussion of the Club's Election Process, authority documents, procedures and qualifications for the Nominating Committee, Election Committee and Candidates for Officer and Director's positions.

It is time to appoint the Nomination Committee.

In the absence of the President, the Board decided to create a list of recommended candidates for the Nominating Committee to be presented and recommended to the President for his action.

The list of candidates for the Nominating committee will be vetted by Rick KE7EMW to assure qualifications are met.

Animals in the Clubhouse: There have been several instances in recent years of animal feces being found in the clubhouse. This has happened twice in the last few weeks.

Club policy prohibits animals in the Clubhouse except for service animals.

The Board elected to remind all members of the Club policy and post notices at the clubhouse "No Pets Allowed – except for service animals"

Open House: Larry KD4VOM reported on the continuing difficulty getting eligible members to volunteer for Open House. Despite the Board's unanimous approval of maintaining the Club's traditional Open House Saturdays, many have not volunteered for even one Saturday duty. Some reported not receiving the Duty Officer messages.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

Lawnmower repair: Bob AD7LJ reports that he repaired the mower with a bolt, nut and safety wire.

Old Copy Machine: The discussion of what to do with the copy machine resulted in a task to Jill to contact Mick Pier to see what he recommends.

Clubhouse Security: There were several instances where the Clubhouse was found either unlocked, or the security alarm off, or windows not locked. Bob AD7LJ is relatively certain that this problem has been fixed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
23 July, 2008

The 23 July, 2008 Monthly Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building. . President Randy Thompson AD7FF called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Officers and board members present:

President: Randy Thompson – AD7FF
Secretary: Larry Watson -- KD4VOM
Board Member: Al Burleson -- K7HW
Board Member: Bob Purdom -- AD7LJ

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached. There were 22 names on the attendance roster

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Was led by President Randy AD7FF

INTRODUCTIONS:

Self introductions were completed and guests welcomed

ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY:

VP Jill K7JIL is reported ill and Nick Winter K7MO's mother is not doing well

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Larry Watson – KD4VOM

Correspondence: Larry reports the usual utility bills and bank statements, along with notice from the State of changes in retail sales tax collection policy. Items are now taxed at the rate of the point of delivery

TREASURER'S REPORT: Gary McFadden – K7UPG

Absent, No report

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: Rick Rose, KE7EMW reports membership count stands today at 294

Field Day: Bob AD7LJ reports that Nick K7MO is working the midnight oil to get our Field Day reports compiled and submitted.

Hamfest: Bob AD7LJ reports that we still need volunteers and that another planning meeting is coming soon. He is planning to call folks who helped last year.

PROGRAM: Don Hatlestad AC7FA presented tonight's program; Learn Morse with your Computer. Don presented his personal history of learning the code, the various methods he used, those that he found especially helpful and some were not.

Don's interest and attraction, passion for CW was evident in his presentation and his message came through 5/9. A copy of his outstanding presentation and links to the various code training programs are available at Don's Blog… Here's the link:

http://ac7fa.net/?p=126

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Elections are coming: Larry KD4VOM reminded all that it's not too early to start thinking and planning for this fall's elections. The Nomination committee will be selected soon and will begin the process of selecting the best and brightest candidates to offer up as leadership for the next two years. Candidates must agree to be placed in nomination.

Discussion Topics:

Dead Birds: Worth W7WG reported some dead crows in his neighborhood. There is a Pierce County Health office investigating such incidents: Their number is: 253-798-6575

International Space Station: Worth W7WG reminded all again of the ISS sightings which are possible on clear nights. Check Google, ISS and you can get the time and elevation for our area. It's spectacular.

The Secret Wireless War: Steve, AC7VL reported on a great new book by Geoffrey Pidgeon he is reading. It's the story of the British Intelligence Special Communications Units operations from 1939 to 1945. This book is great reading and stories about communications intelligence, Enigma, and the people who fought the communications war.

Door Prize: N/A

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
13 August, 2008

The 13 August 2008 Monthly Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building. . President Randy Thompson AD7FF called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Officers and board members present:

President: Randy Thompson -- AD7FF
Vice President: Jill Palmer – K7JIL
Secretary: Larry Watson -- KD4VOM
Board Member: Al Burleson -- K7HW
Board Member: Bob Purdom -- AD7LJ
Board Member: Frank Palmer – AC7JY

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached. There were 41 names on the attendance roster.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Was led by President Randy AD7FF

INTRODUCTIONS: Self introductions were completed and guests welcomed

ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY: Jill K7JIL reported the passing of Nick K7MO's mother last week.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Larry Watson – KD4VOM

Correspondence: The only correspondence was utility bills and bank statements

TREASURER'S REPORT: No report, Gary McFadden – K7UPG on vacation

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: Jill Palmer – K7JIL/Rick KE7EMW reported the current membership stands at 298

Field Day Results: Bob AD7LJ reports that Nick K7MO has completed the filing of our field day results, and to expect the count at a meeting in the near future.

Hamfest: Bob AD7LJ reports the Hamfest went well. Over 300 attended this year's fest. Thanks to them, and especially thanks to all who served, including Jim Swanson and the kitchen team, Rick KE7EMW at the Safety and Comfort station for providing food on Friday, All the folks at the Country Store table, Steve AD7VL, Chuck AC7QN, Rich KR7W, Al N7OMS, Harry W7HSA and Dale AD7SQ at the Raffle ticket station, Pat WT7N, and Larry KD4VOM at the admission ticket station, Jon who handed the gate with Linda KE7FKX. And of course all those who helped set up a on Friday and take things down on Saturday afternoon. Our own Al N7OMS won the HRO $ 300 raffle prize.

VE Report: Bob AD7LJ and Jon AD7AW reported on the VE Session at the Hamfest which saw 11 candidates and eight advanced and the 9 August session at the clubhouse where once again the VE's outnumbered the candidates 3 to 1. 9 VE's administered elements to 3 candidates, one new Technician joined the amateur ranks and two upgraded to General.

PROGRAM: Ken Gibson N7ELF presented tonight's program which was a video presentation of the Amateur Radio Video News (ARVN) which provided a comprehensive review of the many evolving amateur digital voice modes, including HF and VHF/UHF AOR, WinDRM, DRMDV on HF, D-STAR and P-25.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None:

NEW BUSINESS:

None:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Elections: Larry KD4VOM reminded all present that it is now time to become active in identifying candidates for the coming annual elections. This year the President, Treasurer and two Board positions are up for election/re-election. Candidates for President or Treasure must have two years active club membership and for the Board, one year.

If you have a nomination, provide the name to any Board member, or the Nominating committee which will be selected soon.

Tower Raising: Harry W7HSA announced that tomorrow is the big day at his QTH as the new tower goes up. Anyone who can help is asked to come.

More Tower Information: Frank AC7JY announced that he has acquired a sixty foot crank up tower and a tri-bander beam. He thanked Dan at Hotpress for raising money from the raffling of a club logo jacket and all those who contributed to replacing the tower destroyed by vandals.

Discussion Topics:

Salmon Run: Larry KD4VOM reminded all present of the upcoming Salmon Run contest. September 21st and 22nd will be contest days at the clubhouse with a planned Potluck on Friday evening.

The Club will be raising money through pledges to address such needed work as corrosion control on our tower, feed line maintenance, replacing the alarm system, and repair/ replace the furnace and other projects. This year most of the pledge soliciting will be by mail, resorting to telephone calls if necessary. Thanks again to Al Ferguson N7OMS for heading up this important project

Tuning and Traffic: Randy AD7FF reports a contact with Italy today on 20 meters

Door Prize: Charles KD7UAN won the door prize grab bag donated by Leonard KA7AWF

The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 pm.

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
27 August 2008

The 27 August 2008 Monthly Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building. . Vice President Jill Palmer K7JIL called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Officers and board members present:

Vice President: Jill Palmer – K7JIL
Secretary: Larry Watson -- KD4VOM
Treasurer: Gary McFadden – K7UPG
Board Member: Frank Palmer – AC7JY

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached. There were 30 names on the attendance roster

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Was led by Vice President Jill K7JIL

INTRODUCTIONS:

Self introductions were completed

ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY: Joanne Souter, WA5KZQ continues to recover from surgery, and a "Celebration of Life" in honor of Silent Key Alan Burgstahler N7BF is planned for this coming Saturday. Area ham Patrick Carle N7GVK has also joined the ranks of the Silent Keys.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Larry Watson – KD4VOM

Correspondence: Larry reports only the normal utility bills and bank statements.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Gary McFadden – K7UPG has returned from vacation, welcome back…

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: Jill Palmer – K7JIL/ Rick Rose KE7EMW indicates the membership stands around 397.

W7DK @ the Fair: Pat W7NT reports that all of the remaining fair schedule items have been filled. The Silver and Bronze parking lots are available for vendors this year as well as the possibility of getting a free bus pass at the Fair administration building.

We will again have an ICOM Pro III and a club laptop with Digipan to support PSK 32 operations/demonstrations.

Field Day Results: Larry KD4VOM provided the Field Day results from the listing provided by Nick K7MO who was unable to make tonight's meeting. *A copy of the list is attached to the original copy of these minutes.*

PROGRAM: Rich Patrick KR7W presented an interesting experience he had with a large AM broadcasting station causing a transfer of power to a large oil tanker unloading boom. The inductive transfer was strong enough to shock workers touching the crane's hook, and prompted fear of a spark. The FCC, Tacoma Power, and a specialty company which works on these kinds of issues identified the source of the transfer as the nearby AM broadcasting station. Rich had several photos to illustrate the process and people involved.

Tonight's program was a well done video tour of the **2007 Dayton Hamvention**. This video, produced by the Amateur Radio Video News (ARVN) folks was comprehensive and laced with dry humor… Great program….

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Salmon Run: Larry KD4VOM, on behalf of Al N7OMS reminded folks of the upcoming Western Washington DX Club "Salmon Run" contest. This year the club will once again raise needed funds for our operations by soliciting pledges and contributions based on our team's ability to excel at Salmon Run this year.

Thanks to the hard work done by Rick KE7EMW to prepare the letter, envelopes, and mailing stickers; as well as Bob AD7LJ, John AC7WW, Al K7HW and Larry KD4VOM who folded, stuffed and labeled the 397 pledge letters which were mailed yesterday, the pledge drive is underway.

The Salmon Run will be conducted on September 20th and 21st we are planning a potluck on Saturday evening and all are welcome to drop in, socialize, and work the contest if that suits your fancy. In general, just have a good time. For the adventurous, going mobile to some hard to get location and play the pile up game may be the option of choice. Either way, have a great time and promote our hobby.

Watch our www.W7DK.Org website, and the September BARK for more information on the planning and activities.

Next Meeting's Program: Maury KD7VJX will present his experience with the installation and operation of the MFJ 1798 Antenna at the September 10 meeting…

Door Prize: Dennis KB7WFV won the General License Manual door prize.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM

THE LAST WORD - ON HOW TO MAKE A NEW HAM

"If you want to build a ship, don't drum up men to gather wood, divide the work and give them orders. Instead, teach them to yearn for the vast and endless sea."

-Antoine de Saint-Exupery

TNX AL K7HW

Ham-Fest PIX!

Dateline: September 2008

Sparky's "View from the Shack"

This and that around the club, and more…

- *Elections are coming Part I*
- *Hamfest is history…*
- *Attaboys*
- *Salmon Run is coming…*
- *View from the Shack*

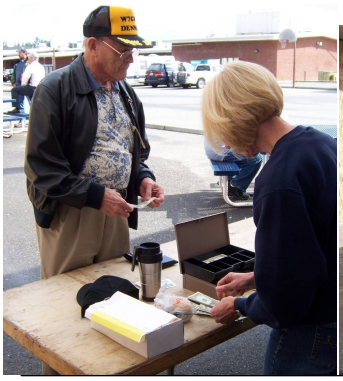
Sparky's *welcomes comments, ideas and letters to "The RCT View", but reserves the right to procrastinate, and generally ignore social engineering or cranky inputs. Editorial philosophy — While there occasionally may be reason and rhyme as we go along, the goal is to ramble through the many and varied activities of the Club and its members as we take another trip around the sun.*

Elections are coming…Part II

This month, the Nominating Committee will be appointed. It's time to seriously think about the club's leadership for the next two years. The President, Treasurer and two Board members are up for election/re-election this year. If you care about the future of our club, volunteer for one of the Board officers or someone on the Nomination Committee when they are announced.
All of us have a vested interest in the clubs future, and we all should be engaged in finding and promoting the selection of candidates who can fill the bill. Any candidate must consent to have their name placed in nomination. Stay tuned for more detail on the process in next month's Sparky's View

Hamfest is history…

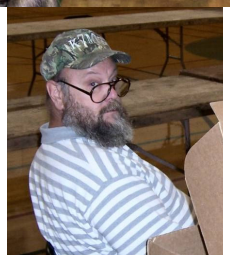
Commander Bob presided over this year's Hamfest. Sparky wants to take this opportunity to thank all that made this year's Hamfest Possible. From setting up tables, unloading vendors gear, setting up and managing the Country Store and Consignment tables to selling admission and raffle tickets and fixin' food it was a group effort. It's for sure Sparky will miss some of those who helped, but risking angry notes from those I missed, here's at least a partial list of those who "made it happen".
Harry Adams W7HSA, Linda Adams KE7FKX, Steve Blacksten AD7VL, Pete David KK7QW, Al Ferguson N7OMS, Jon Hamilton AD7AW, Bill Jonez AB7WJ, Chuck Kemmer AC7QN, Joe Lester K7AWJ, Bruce Mackey KD7UAQ, Dale Morrison AD7SQ.Bill Lucas KB7IHB, Rich Patrick KR7W, Bob Purdom AD7LJ, Gilead Rose KE7IGV, Rick Rose KE7EMW , Roddney Saucedo WV7O, Jim & Lynn Swanson WA7JIM & WB7LYN, Larry Watson KD4VOM, Pat Wingerter WT7N, The VE team: Harry Adams W7HSA,Jon Hamilton AD7AW, Joe Baldissari W7RQ, Bill Jonez AB7WJ, Jim Lawrence N7RHX, John Clarke AC7WW
Shirley Murphy N7QHW, Tom Murphy N7QHX, and the Civil Air Patrol crew and of course the school custodians.



Attaboys:

Sparky notes — This month its time again to recognize the good work Bob Heselberg K7MXE does keeping the clubhouse lawn mowed and trimmed. This is one of those volunteer tasks that many aren't aware of because its generally done when nobody's around. Thanks Bob.

Another great program from Ken Gibson N7ELF last month on Digital Voice systems, keeping us up to date as this technology grows in use in the Amateur community.



Another tip of Sparky's hat goes to the Elmer team who helped put up Harry W7HSA's tower and antenna; Bill AD7QI, Al AC7BU, Harry K7LAZ, Steve AD7VL, Jan K7HTU and Linda KE7FKX

Salmon Run is Coming…

The countdown is underway… You should be hearing from the Salmon Run Team shortly to offer yet another way to make our clubhouse a better place to enjoy amateur radio. From keeping the clubhouse sound and improving the security of our valuable equipment, museum and library to expanding the HF stations to enable more on air participation.

View from the Shack…

Its also time to begin thinking about our annual awards and Christmas banquet. Sparky mentions it here to solicit recommendations to the Board for folks you all think have made important contributions to the Radio Club of Tacoma this year. It's one of the Club's ways of saying thanks for those who make things happen, and keep the spirit alive.

The Disclaimer…

These articles are intended to browse through recent activities and coming events of possible interest to the Radio Club of Tacoma members. It will of course by design and intent be informal and attempt to record some of the Club's activities that might otherwise go unnoticed.

Sparky

Remember, "You can't teach an old dog……...new math."

Speaking of new math… Above we see Harry W7HSA trying out an old standard for "Old math" anyone remember the slide rule?

At left, Rick Rose proudly shows off his antenna farm at radio KE7EMW, in beautiful downtown Lakewood!

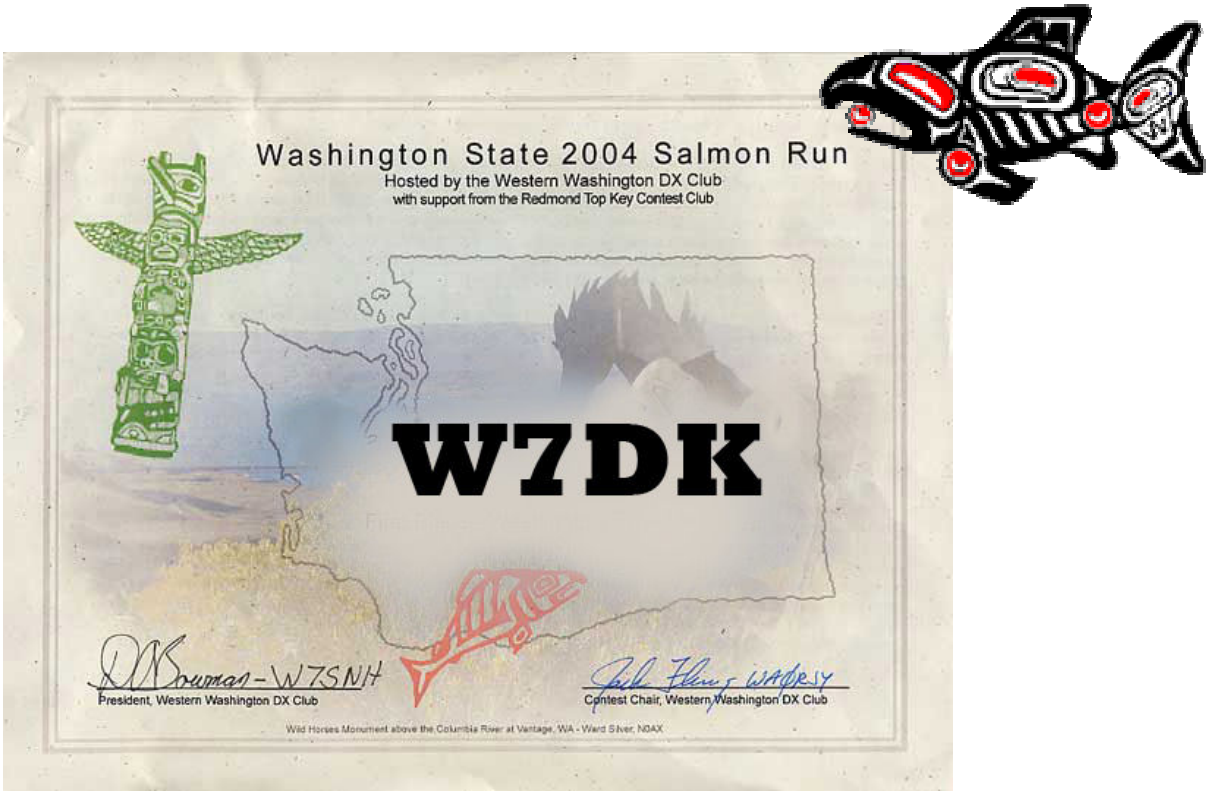
The Salmon are running! The Salmon are running!

Al Ferguson, N7OMS

September is here and it's time to plan those last few camping trips and picnics. Many of us are also looking forward to Fair Food and all that goes with a trip to the Puyallup. It's also time for the Washington State QSO party and RCT Salmon Run Fund Raiser. So I hope you have filled out and returned your pledge form. Even if you choose not to pledge please return the form so we know that you got the mailing.

Nick K7MO recently told me that with the higher cost of gas that it may be very difficult to get all 39 counties as there may not be as many rovers this year. So if you plan to have a picnic or camping trip the third weekend in September please do so in one of the hard to reach counties and bring your rig along. You might find yourself very popular! Frank and Jill Palmer did just that last year and had a great time. If travel is not in your plans then be sure to stop by the Club House September 20th around dinner time with your favorite pot-luck dish and visit with your fellow RCT members.

For more information about Salmon Run and the rules for the contest just go to the W7DK web site and click on FAV LINKS to find a link to Western Washington DX Club. This is the group that sponsors the Washington State QSO party (Salmon Run). For more information about RCT's fund raiser see the article in last months Bark or check the RCT's website. Hope to see or hear you the third weekend in September and wrap up this summer with some Ham Radio fun.


Washington State 2004 Salmon Run
Hosted by the Western Washington DX Club
with support from the Redmond Top Key Contest Club
W7DK
President, Western Washington DX Club
Contest Chair, Western Washington DX Club

Happy Birthday September

Day	Name	Call	RCT Number
2	Jason Carter	**KD7LZU**	2102
2	Stuart Arestad	**W7OQQ**	795
4	Bud Larsen	**KE7GB**	2322
4	Lester Fries	**KA7MYU**	1159
5	Tom Gale	**KE7LDC**	2327
8	Judy Kirkreit	**AJ7R**	842
13	Ray Winter	**AC7KQ**	2023
13	Si Nelsen	**KA7AQT**	1074
18	Bob Purdom	**AD7LJ**	2240
18	Worth Gurley	**W7WG**	1025
21	Gary Breivik	**N7GWC**	1155
22	Chuck Inge	**N7ETC**	1843
22	Joyce Baskett	**KA7VXN**	1191
24	Ray Brassard	**KE7BZD**	2251
26	Bud Mitze	**K7BUD**	1695
26	Frank Bannon	**AC7YJ**	1708
28	Ken Keigley	**W7DM**	199
29	Al Burleson	**K7HW**	1719
29	Annabel Gibson		2344
29	Gilead Rose	**KE7IGV**	2299

It's the Amateur Radio Service

By Jim Kendall, KE7JMY

From the Kitsap Peninsula Business Journal
With Permission from the author, Jim Kendall KE7JMY

When you hear about Amateur Radio Operators, or "hams," what probably most sticks in your mind, in glowing letters four inches tall, is the word "Amateur." Upon which, depending on your inclinations or perhaps vocation, your lip may curl ever so slightly. It could be a sneer, or it could be a smile. You may have an image of a young boy with a clunky soldering iron, smoke curling up from the tip, bent over some mysterious metallic clutter. You may think of hearing a seemingly endless stream of dots and dashes running together in an incomprehensible stream. You wonder how anyone could sit still long enough to learn how to do all that "geeky" stuff.

The reality is, when you hear the words "Amateur Radio Service" what should jump out at you is the word "Service," in big glowing letters six feet tall. You can easily think of many "amateur" avocations or hobbies, probably a sport of some kind. There are few or no "amateur" policemen or firemen as far as I know. Volunteers, yes, but they are hardly "amateurs." Amateur farmers (Future Farmers of America for example), pilots (Civil Air Patrol or CAP), and Amateur Radio operators are examples of amateurs that often are anything but "amateur."

The recent storms this past winter caused massive damage in large chunks of the Pacific Northwest. Power was out for days, no telephones, no cell phones, and even emergency communications for first responders was out of service in many of the hardest hit areas. You have undoubtedly already read about or seen or heard about the amateur radio operators who filled the void and provided emergency communications for the relief agencies. What somehow gets lost in the telling is that this function is one of the specific, stated purposes for the Federal Government to license Amateur Radio Operators.

From the FCC website comes the following: "The Amateur Radio Service is a voluntary noncommercial communication service, used by qualified persons of any age who are interested in radio technique with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest." Also "Operation of an amateur station requires an amateur operator license grant from the FCC. Before receiving a license grant, you must pass an examination administered by a team of volunteer examiners (VEs) to determine your operator class." Not only do you have to have a license to operate a "ham" radio station, but you must pass a test. The "higher" or more advanced your license, the more knowledge you will need to demonstrate by passing a written examination.

The question arises, "Why is it called a service?" The answer is pretty simple. One of the stated (and in my view primary) reasons the service exists is to provide alternate communications during emergencies. That is clearly a service, but not the only one provided by amateur radio.

My own reason for interest in amateur radio goes back to the Anchorage Alaska earthquake in March of 1964. When we got news of the earthquake (and felt it!) we somehow wound up at a friends house. He is a General Class licensed Amateur Radio Operator. We gathered around in his ham shack and listened to on-the-scene reports from Alaska hams about the incredible devastation (www.vibrationdata.com/earthquakes/alaska.htm). After about ten minutes we had to evacuate because of the expected tsunami, which in fact struck the coast and caused a considerable amount of damage on the north coast of Oregon where I grew up.

Two things stand out in my mind after all these years. First, of course, was my amazement at the magnitude of the event and its aftermath. Second, and perhaps as strong, are my memories of the wonder of talking, in real time as it occurred, to "hams," who were on the scene asking for help and relaying information to the proper authorities. This memory especially includes how my "ham friend" remained cool and professional throughout the whole event. In today's world you have satellite TV, cell phones and satellite phones. As recent events have shown, even those resources can and will fail to perform, while amateur radio operators were operating immediately and continuously.

In June of every year, Amateur Radio operators conduct a Field Day. Field Day is an emergency preparation exercise conducted under the sponsorship of the American Radio Relay League, Inc. This year Field Day is June 28 and 29. Members of the South Kitsap Amateur Radio Club will participate by establishing a temporary emergency communications center in the South Kitsap Community Park. The Park is located at the corner of Jackson and Lund in Port Orchard. The public is invited to come by on Saturday and see emergency communications equipment in action. The ingenuity and skill on display is well beyond "amateur" and well into "service."

The weekend prior to Field Day is the second national "Kids Day" of 2008, and will be at the same location as Field Day. On Saturday, stations will be set up all around the US and kids are specifically invited to talk on the "ham radio." The Kids Day event is the third Saturday, June 21. In the past some who are unfamiliar with the South Kitsap Community Park have been confused about which entrance into the park to use. The entrance to use for Field Day (& Kid's Day) is the entrance off of Jackson Avenue in Port Orchard.

For more information about either event contact Merv Archer (N7IZ) at 360-373-0225 or N7IZ@arrl.com, or email Jim Kendall (KE7JMY) at KE7JMY@arrl.com.

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At the *'DK at the Fair'* exhibit for 2008… the Radio Club's booth in the Hobby Hall will showcase a IC-2200 2 meter mobile and a IC-756 Pro 3, both on loan and display from Icom of America. There is the Morse Code testing table where kids of any age can send their name for a handsome certificate, antique radios and telegraph equipment in the display case to get the old timers talking about "back in the day", a table that tells about amateur radio and scouting, and lots of hand outs generously provided by Icom of America in Bellevue. Both radios are connected to antennas on the roof. There is the ability to make PSK-31 contacts using the laptop PC next to the HF radio. Pat WT7N has out done herself this year.

Previous Page: Lower Left foto shows the display case with a Drake TR-4 and an old Regenerative Receiver from 1924. Also displayed are some bugs and an Old Timey Telegraph Sounder. The Lower Right foto shows the Icom IC-756 Pro 3 station which is connected to a 80-40-20 Meter multi-band dipole antenna on the roof. Also connected to this radio is a PSK-31 interface and Laptop PC. Digipan PSK software will allow the properly licensed ham to make some digital contacts. (Interesting note: during set up day contact was made with Russia with the PSK-31 combination).

This Page: Left foto displays the Icom IC-2200H two meter FM transceiver that is connected to a collinear antenna on the roof. The theme of this area of the display is Emergency Communications. This radio is tuned to the DK repeater to allow booth visitors to make a quick contact with a club member who might be monitoring the repeater (with the help of the ham manning the booth, of course). Right foto displays how Amateur Radio and electronics technology is part of Scouting.

Bark readers: Tell your friends who may be interested in ham radio to be sure to check out the DK at the Fair booth in the Hobby Hall. Also, here's an opportunity to show your grand child, children, or friends about your hobby whilst visiting the Western Washington Fair this year.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY WORTH!!!

Just who is that suave gentleman in the classy shades? It's our own Worth Gurley W7WG, who will be celebrating his 90th birthday this month. Yes, on the 18th of September 2008 Worth is celebrating a serious milestone !

Imagine ninety years of experience!

Join us at the Radio Club of Tacoma clubhouse the evening of September 20th and help us celebrate the man and his accomplishments!

That is the evening of the Salmon Run contest being at the RCT. Join the Salmon run crew, make a few Q's have some potluck, and a slice of birthday cake as we celebrate and have a great time..

See you there!

Maybe Al will ring the cowbell?

Replace the paddles on your 'Bug' or Iambic keyer for CHEAP!

Frank Billington W7FJB

Ever had this happen? One of the paddles on your 'Bug' or Iambic keyer gets cracked or broken?

Here's my story. A couple of years ago, I bought an old WWII-era bug. The woman selling it said that it was something that she'd found while closing out her father's estate. When I asked for particulars, her comment was that he had "played with old radios a lot."

Upon its arrival, I felt the bug sliding around loose inside the cardboard shipping box. Oh crud! When I opened the box, I found that not only was the longer of the two Bakelite paddles broken, but the axle of the armature had been bent and the armature was flopping loose inside the frame. Sigh.

For a couple of years, it sat on a shelf with some other projects waiting for an available Amateur Time Unit. Recently I decided to repair and restore it to usability.

Getting it back to a mechanically working and functional state wasn't difficult. After loosening and / or removing a number of screws, I carefully straightened out the bent armature axle. Putting it back together involved the readjustment of several of the contact and positioning screws; no big deal.

But what to do about that broken Bakelite paddle? Try to glue it and hope that it will hold? Check at swap meets? The Mike & Key event was several months behind me, and the Radio Club of Tacoma event was months down the calendar.

On the Internet? I found one that looked like it would fit the bill, even though it was a bit pricey. But when it arrived, (a) it was ordinary shiny black plastic, not bakelite, (b) it wasn't even close to the same shape as the original, and (c) it was only about half as thick as the original. OK, now I have a very expensive key fob. Lesson learned.

For some reason I remembered back in my high school years making front panels for electronic projects out of pieces of Formica left over from a neighbor's kitchen remodel. Pink Formica with little flecks of gold wasn't exactly impressive, but it was a good insulator and it held the controls and earphone jacks that I needed.

I was about to start looking up kitchen remodel contractors to see if I could beg, borrow, or steal a few small scraps of something suitable (pink wasn't going to cut it, this time) but then I remembered a 'source'. One where they had *lots* of colors. I won't specifically identify these sources since that's not what the manufacturer intended them for, but you can figure it out. In any case, the next time I was at one of these stores I managed to acquire a couple of little rectangular pieces in a nice matte black.

First, glue the pieces of your broken paddle together. Don't worry about doing a professional job; it only has to serve as a pattern. Once that's done, lay it down on one of the little pieces of Formica, figure out where you'll need to make a rough cut, and trace the outline with a fine-pointed marking pen. You'll be cutting the pieces into rough triangular shapes that you'll use to create a Formica 'sandwich'.

A 'hobby' hacksaw is best for cutting small pieces, but if all you have is a full-size hacksaw, use a blade that has no fewer than 18 TPI (24 TPI is better). Cut it so that the saw blade is close to parallel with surface of the material. Cutting Formica with your saw blade at 90 degrees to the material is likely result in a 'buzzing' vibration effect and the possibility of chipping the material along the cut lines.

Better still: If you happen to have a bench vise in your shop, clamp the pieces in that with thin pieces

of cardboard on either side so you don't leave marks. Even using a C-clamp and a piece of 2x4 that you can hold down with your knee while you're cutting will work.

Now we move on to the gluing. Use 'contact cement' - it is specifically designed for the purpose. If you've never played with contact cement before, remember that you don't press the pieces together until after the cement has dried.

And here's where some important planning comes in. When you're laying out the pieces, keep in mind that although the pieces in the center of the sandwich can face either way, the final colored surfaces have to face *outward*.

Apply the contact cement to the first two surfaces that you intend to bond together. Set them aside and leave them while the cement dries. Go catch up on the Mariner's scores or something. Come back in 15 or 20 minutes (follow the directions on the can of contact cement), pick up the two pieces and carefully place them together. Once they touch, that's where they're going to stick, so make sure that you've got the pieces aligned the way you want them. With pieces of cardboard on either side to protect the finish, clamp them gently but firmly into your bench vise or C-clamp for a few moments. Once clamped, that's where these two pieces will be for the rest of their life.

Assuming that you're working with more than two thicknesses of Formica, apply cement to the next two surfaces, let dry, and then clamp as before. The number of layers needed will vary depending on the thickness that you're trying to duplicate. (In my case, three pieces was enough). When you've glued enough pieces together to achieve the desired thickness, you will have a sandwich, ready for the final cutting and finishing.

Clamp the sandwich into the bench vise (or C-clamped to the edge of a table) and - keeping in mind the admonishments presented earlier - cut along the outlines that you traced back at the beginning. Be sure to leave a little bit of extra material for filing and sanding.

Using a fairly fine mill file, file down the extra material until you're just about at the trace lines. Then switch to a piece of 120-grit (or finer) sandpaper to accomplish the final smoothing and edge-rounding process. Do this with patience - you don't want to go too far and ruin the clean lines of your new paddle.

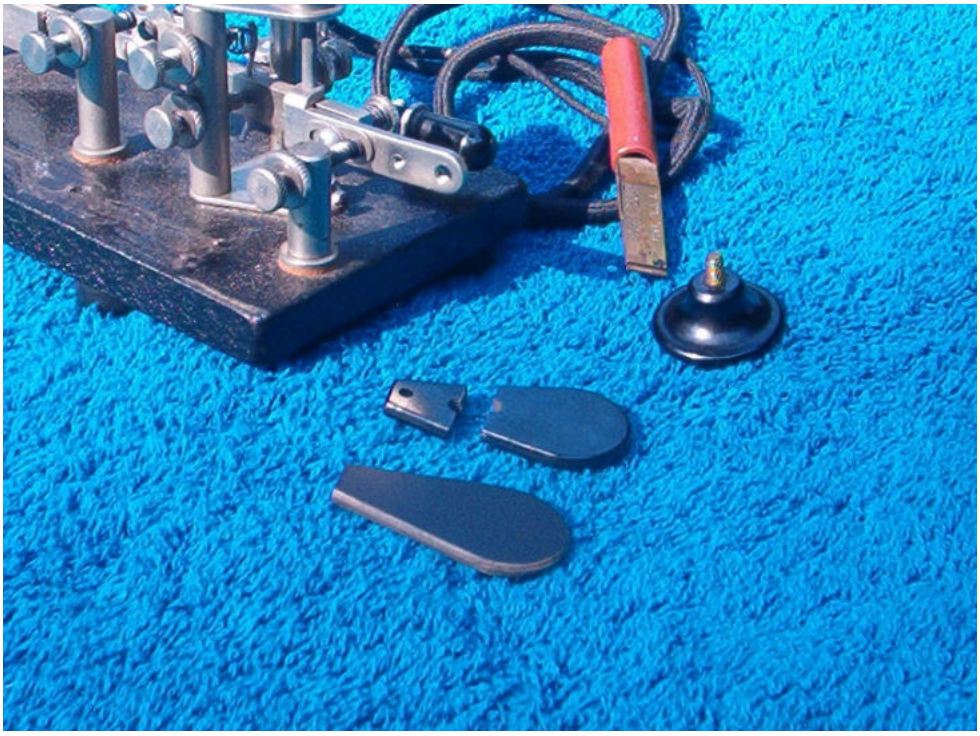
Once the sanding is done, you're ready to drill the holes needed to mount the paddle to your key's armature. Again, use the old paddle to locate and mark the holes. Run your drill at its slowest speed so you don't chip the edges of the hole(s).

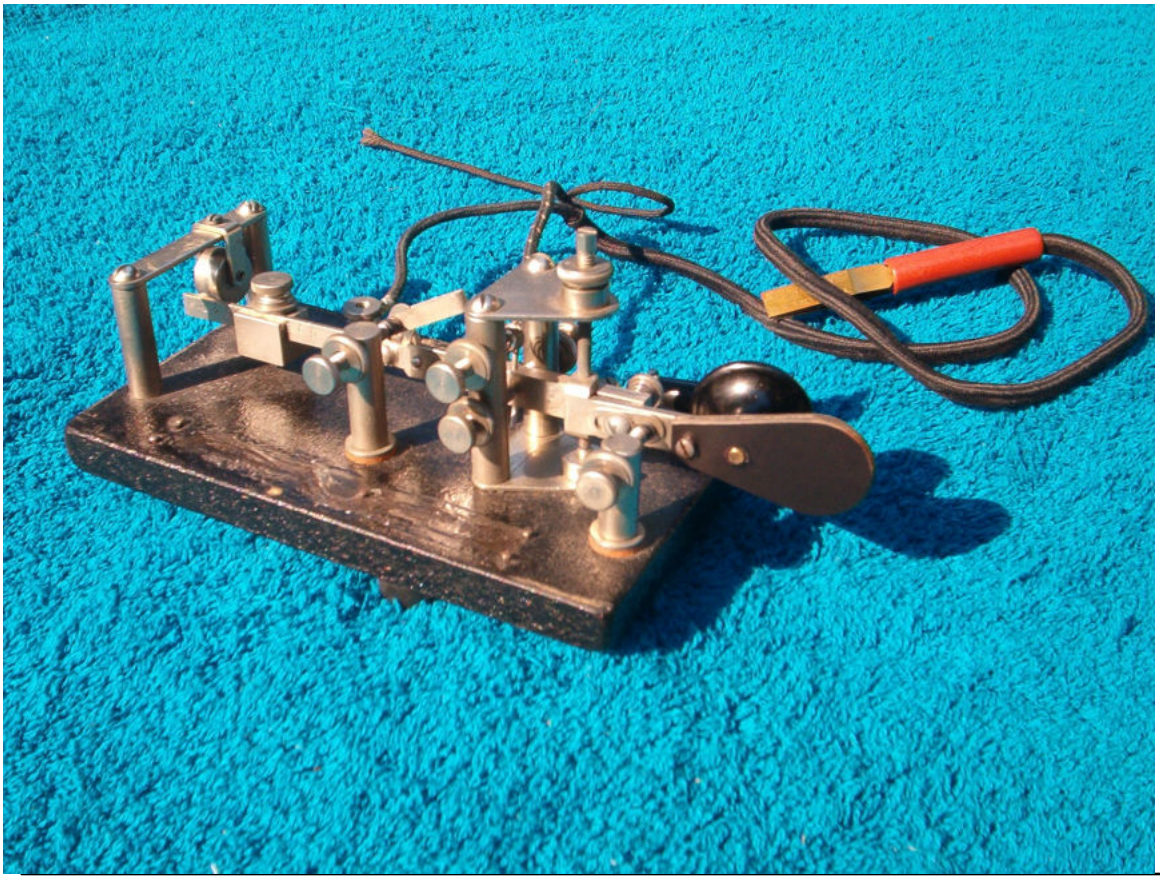
Install the new paddle on your key's armature, and you're ready to get back on the air.

Note #1
If you can't find a color match –OR-- want to change the color of your paddles, use these directions to make *two* replacement paddles.

Note #2
This technique can be used to resurface the round button on older 'Bugs'. Remove the button from the key and trace the outline of it onto a piece of matching material. Then file or sand down the flat top surface of the original button until you've removed enough so that the addition of one piece of Formica will bring it back to it's original thickness. The same contact cement steps apply here as well.

(SEE PIX on next page — Ed.)





VE REPORT John AC7WW

Saturday, August 9th at the Radio Club of Tacoma Hamfest in Spanaway, the VE team conducted a testing session for eleven candidates. Four new Technician Amateurs joined the Amateur Service. Three candidates upgraded to General and two upgraded to Extra. Four candidates did not earn an upgrade or an initial license at this session.

We served amateurs visiting from California and New York.

Thanks to the following volunteer examiners for their time:

Harry, W7HSA
Jon, AD7AW
Joe, W7RQ
Bill, AB7WJ
Jim, N7RHX
Shirley, N7QHW
Tom, N7QHX

VE REPORT John AC7WW

Once again we are at that time of the calendar year when the Volunteer Examiners out number the candidates we serve. On Tuesday evening, August 12th nine VE's and three candidates were at the clubhouse of the Radio Club of Tacoma for the monthly testing session. A total of six elements were graded with four being passed. One candidate passed the technician test, failed the general test and then took another try at the general test and passed. The VE team total was; one technician and two generals.

Thanks to the following volunteer examiners for their time:

Harry, W7HSA
Steve, AD7VL
Al, AC7BU
Jon, AD7AW
Jim, N7RHX
Bob, N7RHX
Mike, AD7TH
Bill, AD7QI

The Radio Club of Tacoma's Logger's Bark

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Membership Info: FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) is $30 per calendar year. $25 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay $15 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Fulltime students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are $15 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for.. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.

Radio Club Repeaters

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5 Central Tacoma Packet: 144.970
Crawford Mountain (SE Thurston County): 147.380 + PL=103.5
Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

The Loggers Bark
Radio Club of Tacoma, INC.
PO Box 11188
Tacoma, WA 98411

To RCT Member:

SEPTEMBER 2008 EVENTS

CLUB MEETINGS: Wednesdays August 10th and 24th at the Library Administration Building 112th and Waller Road. The club meets at 7:30 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

Board Meeting: Wednesday September 3rd, 7:30 PM at the RCT clubhouse. All members are welcome.

Bark Deadline: Last week-end of each month. Please submit articles by that time!

Support our club: Attend meetings, volunteer, Elmer!

Check into the weekly two meter net: Tuesdays at 7:30 PM on the club repeater on 147.280 MHz.

Check into the weekly 10 meter net: Sundays at 8:00 PM on 28.375 MHz.